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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service  
Washington, D. C.

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November 16, 1940

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR RYE AND OATS

Six public conferences to discuss proposed amendments to the U. S. grain standards for rye and for oats have been scheduled by the Agricultural Marketing Service for the period from December 9 to 19. Dates and places for the conferences are as follows:

- Dec. 9 - 1:30 p.m. - Grand Forks, N. Dak. - City Hall Auditorium.
- Dec. 10 - 2:30 p.m. - Minneapolis, Minn. - Chamber of Commerce Bldg.,  
Directors Room.
- Dec. 12 - 1:30 p.m. - Aberdeen, S. Dak. - Post Office Bldg., Committee  
Room.
- Dec. 13 - 2:30 p.m. - Omaha, Nebr. - Grain Exchange Bldg.
- Dec. 18 - 2:30 p.m. - Peoria, Ill. - 330 South Washington Street,  
Exchange Room.
- Dec. 19 - 2:30 p.m. - Chicago, Ill. - Board of Trade Bldg., Room 558.

The proposed amendments include the addition of a special grade to designate Columbia oats; and special grades to designate rye containing not more than 5 percent of thin kernels, and rye containing more than 20 percent of thin kernels.

It is believed that the proposed amendments, if adopted, would modernize the standards to conform with changes that have occurred in recent years in production, merchandising, milling and processing practices. In formulating the proposals, consideration has been given to the problems of the producer and the country shipper as well as to the problems of the elevator operator and consumer. The inspection practicability of the suggested revisions has been demonstrated by the Agricultural Marketing Service through experimental application.

Persons interested in the production, merchandising, warehousing, processing, and inspection of rye and oats are invited to participate in the conference discussions and to express their views on the proposed amendments. Communications on the proposals should be addressed to the Chief, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, to be received not later than December 23, 1940.

The proposed amendments, if adopted, will become effective at the beginning of the 1941 crop movement of rye and oats. Ninety days public notice must be given by the Secretary of Agriculture, however, before such standards become effective.

### Proposed Amendments to the Standards for Rye

When the present standards for rye were established most of the rye offered for inspection consisted either of the rye as received directly from country producing areas or of shipments of blends of such rye. Most of the rye now received directly from country points is adequately described by the standards now in effect, and the addition of the special grades to the standards will not affect the grading of any large percentage of the country-run rye in normal years.

The introduction of new types of grain-sizing machinery for use in terminal elevators and the increase in the practice of removing thin kernels of rye before it is offered to the users has resulted in the tendering for inspection of large amounts of two new and distinct types of sized rye which are not adequately described by the straight numerical grades alone. First of these is the plump rye prepared for users by removing most of the thin kernels and, second, is the thin rye which has been removed in preparing the first type of rye. The Federal rye standards have not kept pace with this change in marketing practice; consequently, special contracts and unofficial inspections are being used to provide for the delivery of rye meeting the processing and trading requirements.

Because these new types of rye are the result of sizing operations it is proposed to add two special grade designations based on sizing tests which can be applied readily to inspection procedure. This would be accomplished by adding the word "plump" to the grade for that rye which contains not more than 5 percent of thin kernels, and by adding the word "thin" to the grade assigned to that rye which contains more than 20 percent of thin kernels. Rye containing more than 5 percent but not more than 20 percent of thin kernels would be graded merely as "rye" of the proper grade without any qualifying designation as to size of kernels. The sizing test would be made by the use of the so-called small chess sieve.

It is believed that the inclusion in the grain standards of a special grade for plump rye will provide a sound trading basis for the merchandising of rye from which the thin kernels have been removed and for many lots of premium quality rye that are received regularly from country points; that it will permit market quotations for such premium quality rye, and that the premiums will be reflected in the prices paid to farmers for such rye.

It is generally considered that thin rye is practically equal in feeding value, pound for pound, to the larger rye, but thin rye is less desirable for flour milling and other processing purposes. Thin rye yields less flour and the flour is of lower grade than the flour milled from largerkerneled rye. Also, thin kerneled rye contains less starch than plump rye.



The rye that is shipped from country points to terminal markets ordinarily contains only a small percentage of thin kernels and would properly be classified either as "plump rye" or "rye" with only a minor portion being classified as "thin rye."

It is estimated on the basis of tests made on representative samples of the primary receipts of rye for the 1938, 1939, and 1940 crops that in an average year 80 percent of the receipts would grade "straight" without the addition of either the special grade "Plump" or the special grade "Thin;" that about 10 percent of the receipts would grade "Plump" and 10 percent would grade "Thin." In a year like 1940, however, only 3 percent would grade "Thin," 29 percent would grade "Plump," and 68 percent would not require the addition of either special grade.

The specifications of the proposed amendments to the rye standards would be approximately as follows:

Plump Rye.- Rye which meets the requirements for any of the grades from No. 1 to Sample grade, inclusive, and which, when free from dockage, does not contain more than 5 percent of rye and other matter that will pass through a 20-gage metal sieve with slotted perforations .064 inch wide by 3/8 inch long shall be classified as "plump" rye. For such rye the word "Plump" shall be added to, and made a part of, the grade designation. (Example, "No. 1 Plump Rye.")

Thin Rye.- Rye which meets the requirements for any of the grades from No. 1 to Sample grade, inclusive, and which, when free from dockage, contains more than 20 percent of rye and other matter that will pass through the slotted sieve described above shall be classified as "thin" rye. For such rye the word "Thin" shall be added to, and made a part of, the grade designation. (Example, "No. 1 Rye, Thin.")

#### Proposed Amendment to the Standards for Oats

In recent years there has been a large increase in the production of red oats that are known in the grain trade as Columbia oats. Columbia oats are properly classified under the standards for oats as Red Oats. These oats are usually comparatively large and plump in size and have physical characteristics which are desired by the oats millers and processors.

It has been represented to the Department that Columbia oats have been discounted in price under white oats in certain merchandising channels for the reason that the official inspection of such oats merely labels them as Red Oats and fails to differentiate between Columbia red oats and other red oats. Tests within the Department and at State

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experiment stations, however, indicate that Columbia red oats have utility values fully equal to white oats, when found in the same competitive merchandising channels as white oats. It is the feeling among producers and many dealers that if a separate classification were provided for Columbia red oats, such oats would find their proper level in the price structure. To this end the Department is proposing a special grade designation to be known as "Special Red Oats."

The specifications for the proposed amendment to the oats standards would be approximately as follows:

Special Red Oats.- Special Red Oats shall be Red oats of the type or variety known as Columbia oats and other oats having similar characteristics, and may include not more than 10 percent of other cultivated oats. For such oats the word "Special" shall be added to, and made a part of, the grade designation. (Example, "No. 1 Special Red Oats.")